## <u>REMARKS</u>

The above preliminary amendment is made to enter new claims 17-57 and cancel claims 1-16.

This is a preliminary amendment made before examination of this case which is a divisional of 08/845256 now US Patent No. 6659982. The replacement claims have never been examined and should now be considered on their merits.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, Michael B. Lasky at (952) 253-4106.

Respectfully submitted,

Altera Law Group, //LC Customer No / 22865/

Date: 22 December 200 By:

Michael B. Lasky

Reg. No. 29,555

MBL/jsa